

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 IGA-02 AID-20 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

RSR-01 /125 W

----- 037900

R 240020Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7014

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

US MISSION GENEVA 99

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1696

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN

REF: A. BANGKOK 11216

B. RANGOON 1680

C. RANGOON 1689

1. EMBASSY NOTED WITH INTEREST PARA 1 REF A IN WHICH IT WAS STATED THAT LO HSING-HAN'S CAPTURE WAS (A) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAI POLICE ACTING ON INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY BANGKOK AND (B) THAT THERE WAS NO GUB/RTC BILATERAL COOPERATION DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH ARREST.

2. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT FOLLOWING ELEMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF EPISODE:
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A. PARA 1A, REF B, WHICH CROSSED WITH REF A, REPORTED RANGOON

PRESS STATEMENTS (OBVIOUSLY AT EXPRESS DIRECTION OF HIGH LEVELS IN GUB) THAT MIS CHIEF COL TIN OO HAD PERSONALLY MET THAI EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE COLONEL SNIT SARYASNGUAN ON JULY 13 AND 16, INFORMED HIM ABOUT OPERATION AGAINST LO'S FORCES, AND ALERTED HIM TO EVENTUALITY OF LO'S FLEEING ACROSS BORDER.

B. REF C REPORTS RANGOON PRESS COMMENTS (OBVIOUSLY BASED ON TIN OO --SNIT COORDINATION) THAT EPISODE DEMONSTRATED THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION AND WOULD PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BURMA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

C. AT DEFENSE ATTACHES LUNCHEON JULY 21 (PERIODIC GATHERING OF ALL DEFENSE ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO RANGOON), COL TIN OO IN TALK TO ENTIRE GROUP STATED THAT CAPTURE OF LO WAS DUE TO QUOTE COOPERATION OF THE THAI, THE AMERICANS AND THE BURMESE UNQUOTE.

3. IT SEEMS EVIDENT FROM FOREGOING THAT THERE WAS IN FACT AN EARNEST ATTEMPT FROM THE BURMESE SIDE AT GUB/RTG BILATERAL COOPERATION, THAT THIS WAS VIEWED BY GUB AS NOTEWORTHY, AND THAT GUB DECISION TO PUBLICIZE IT IS ENCOURAGING. APPORTIONMENT OF LION'S SHARE OF CREDIT FOR LO'S CAPTURE AS BETWEEN THAI, U.S. AND BURMESE APPEARS TO US TO BE SECONDARY TO FACT THAT RECENT BILATERAL AND TRILATERAL EFFORTS AUGUR WELL FOR FUTURE GUB/RTG COLLABORATION IN FUTURE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS.

MARTIN

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